

**A COMPLEX FROBENIUS THEOREM,  
MULTIPLIER IDEAL SHEAVES  
AND HERMITIAN-EINSTEIN METRICS  
ON STABLE BUNDLES**

Ben Weinkove

Department of Mathematics, Columbia University

New York, NY 10027

Email: *weinkove@math.columbia.edu*

**1. Introduction**

In [Ko], J.J. Kohn introduced the notion of ‘subelliptic multipliers’ in his work on the  $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann problem on pseudo-convex domains in order to prove subelliptic estimates on the boundary under certain conditions. He believed that his techniques would have wide applications in deriving estimates by algebraic methods. Following this line of approach, Nadel [Na] defined the *multiplier ideal sheaf*, and used it to prove the existence of Kähler-Einstein metrics on certain Fano manifolds with symmetries (his proofs were later simplified in [DeKo].) Given a plurisubharmonic function  $\phi$  on the manifold, the multiplier ideal sheaf of  $\phi$  is the sheaf of germs of holomorphic functions  $f$  satisfying

$$\int |f|^2 e^{-\phi} < \infty.$$

The sheaf measures the singularities of  $\phi$ . The concept of the multiplier ideal sheaf, which had already been considered implicitly in the work of Bombieri [Bo], Skoda [Sk] and Siu [S1], is an important one in algebraic geometry, and has led to some important breakthroughs, such as the proof by Siu [S3] of the big Matsusaka theorem and effective results on global generation and very ampleness (e.g. [S4], [De].)

In a number of lectures and seminars ([S5] for example), Y-T. Siu has advocated that generalized multiplier ideal sheaves have many applications to problems in partial differential equations and geometry. A multiplier ideal sheaf should measure the position and extent of the failure of an *a priori* estimate. A key concept is that the sheaf  $\mathcal{I}$  should satisfy a differential inclusion relation which arises from known estimates. In Kohn’s case ([Ko], Proposition 4.7.(G)), the differential relation takes the form

$$\partial\mathcal{I} \subset \mathcal{M},$$

where  $\mathcal{M}$  is Kohn's 'multiplier module'. In this paper, we look at the notion of multiplier ideal sheaves in the context of the problem of the existence of Hermitian-Einstein metrics on stable bundles over compact Kähler manifolds. It is our hope that this may provide some clues as to how to proceed in other situations. The problem of existence of Hermitian-Einstein metrics has been solved over curves by Narasimhan and Seshadri [NS] (see also [D1] for an alternative proof), over algebraic surfaces by Donaldson [D2] and over general compact Kähler manifolds by Uhlenbeck and Yau [UY]. In [UY], using a continuity method, it is shown that proving the existence of an Hermitian-Einstein metric can be reduced to proving a certain *a priori* estimate. If this estimate fails to hold then they show that there exists a *destabilizing subsheaf* which contradicts the assumption that the original bundle was stable.

We give an alternative construction of the destabilizing subsheaf in the case of algebraic surfaces, following the ideas of Siu. Instead of the continuity method, we use the Donaldson heat flow (see section 3) which is roughly equivalent. The crucial estimate is the  $C^0$  estimate for this flow of metrics. Abusing terminology, we define a 'multiplier ideal sheaf' picking out those directions in which the metric does not blow up. We show that, using a bound on the contracted curvature  $\Lambda F$  along the flow, the multiplier ideal sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  satisfies the differential inclusion relation

$$\bar{\partial}\mathcal{F} \subset \mathcal{F} \otimes T^{0,1}.$$

The key property that the sheaf must satisfy is coherence. We show this using the differential inclusion relation and a complex Frobenius theorem which is given as follows.

Let  $E$  be a holomorphic vector bundle of rank  $r$  over a complex manifold  $X$  of complex dimension  $n$ . Denote the 'partial connection' associated to the holomorphic structure on  $E$  by  $\bar{\partial}$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{O}$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_R$  and  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$  the sheaves of holomorphic, complex-valued real analytic and smooth functions on  $X$  respectively. Let  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_R$  and  $\mathcal{E}^\infty$  denote the sheaves of holomorphic, real analytic and  $C^\infty$  sections of  $E$  respectively.  $T^{0,1}$  will denote the corresponding sheaf of  $(0,1)$  forms on  $X$ .

**Theorem 1** *Let  $\mathcal{F}_R \subseteq \mathcal{E}_R$  be a subsheaf satisfying*

- (i)  $\mathcal{F}_R$  is locally finitely generated;
- (ii)  $\bar{\partial}\mathcal{F}_R \subseteq \mathcal{F}_R \otimes T^{0,1}$ .

Then  $\mathcal{F}_R$  is locally finitely generated by holomorphic sections of  $E$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{F}$  the sheaf of  $\mathcal{O}$ -modules  $\ker \bar{\partial}|_{\mathcal{F}_R}$ . It follows that  $\mathcal{F} \subset \mathcal{E}$  is coherent and

$$\mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{O}_R = \mathcal{F}_R. \quad (1.1)$$

The corresponding result holds for a subsheaf  $\mathcal{F}^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{E}^\infty$  if condition (i) is replaced by

(i)' For each  $x$  in  $X$ , there exists an open set  $U$  containing  $x$  and a free resolution

$$\cdots \longrightarrow (\mathcal{C}_U^\infty)^{d_2} \longrightarrow (\mathcal{C}_U^\infty)^{d_1} \longrightarrow (\mathcal{C}_U^\infty)^{d_0} \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}_U^\infty \longrightarrow 0,$$

for  $d_i \geq 0$ .

If the subsheaf is locally free, this follows from the Koszul-Malgrange integrability theorem for vector bundles [KM], which is a linear version of the Newlander-Nirenberg theorem for integrable almost complex structures [NN].

A result similar to the  $C^\infty$  case of Theorem 1 has been proved by very different methods in a recent preprint of Pali [Pa]. His theorem applies to sheaves of smooth functions with a  $\bar{\partial}$  operator satisfying  $\bar{\partial}^2 = 0$ , and which admit local free resolutions of finite length. Pali does not assume that the sheaf is a subsheaf of a holomorphic vector bundle. In the case that it is, condition (i)' of Theorem 1 is slightly weaker than his condition, since we do not assume that the resolution is of finite length.

Note that the differential inclusion relation (ii) is not enough by itself to prove coherence. This can be seen by the following counterexample. Fix an open set  $U$  in  $X$  and consider the subsheaf with stalk  $\mathcal{E}_{R,x}(\mathcal{E}_x^\infty)$  for  $x$  in  $U$  and the zero stalk otherwise. This satisfies condition (ii) but is clearly not coherent.

In our application of Theorem 1, we will only use the real analytic case. We define our multiplier ideal sheaf as follows. Suppose that  $X$  is now a compact Kähler manifold, and let  $\tilde{X}$  be an open subset of  $X$ . Let  $\{H_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$  be a sequence of metrics on  $E$  over  $\tilde{X}$ , and define endomorphisms  $h_k = H_0^{-1}H_k$ . Define a presheaf  $\mathcal{P}_R \subseteq \mathcal{E}_R$  over  $\tilde{X}$  by setting the sections over an open set  $U \subset \tilde{X}$  to be

$$\mathcal{P}_R(U) = \{s \in \mathcal{E}_R(U) \mid \int_U |s|_{H_k}^2 \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } k \rightarrow \infty\},$$

where integration is performed with respect to the volume form induced from the Kähler metric on  $X$ . Then let  $\mathcal{F}_R$  be the sheaf associated to the presheaf  $\mathcal{P}_R$ . We will call  $\mathcal{F}_R$  the *multiplier ideal sheaf* associated to the sequence of metrics  $\{H_k\}$ . (For a different definition of a multiplier ideal sheaf for bundles, see [DC].) If the sequence of metrics satisfies certain conditions, then we can prove the differential inclusion relation and apply Theorem 1 to obtain a coherent subsheaf of  $E$ .

**Theorem 2** *Suppose that there exists a positive constant  $C$  and a real analytic endomorphism  $h_\infty$  of  $E$  such that the sequence of metrics  $\{H_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$  satisfies*

- (i)  $H_k \leq H_0$  for all  $k$ ;
- (ii)  $i\hat{F}_{H_k}H_0 \leq CH_0$  for all  $k$ ;
- (iii)  $h_k \rightarrow h_\infty$  uniformly on compact subsets of  $\tilde{X}$ , for  $h_k = H_0^{-1}H_k$ .

*Then the multiplier ideal sheaf  $\mathcal{F}_R$  associated to  $\{H_k\}$  defines a holomorphic coherent subsheaf  $\mathcal{F} \subset \mathcal{E}$  over  $\tilde{X}$ .*

We will see how to use Theorem 2 to construct the destabilizing subsheaf in a proof of the theorem of Donaldson [D2]:

**Theorem 3** *Let  $X \subset \mathbf{CP}^N$  be a projective algebraic surface and let  $\omega$  be the Kähler metric on  $X$  induced from the Fubini-Study metric on  $\mathbf{CP}^n$ . Let  $E$  be a holomorphic vector bundle of rank  $r$  over  $X$  which is stable with respect to the metric  $\omega$ . Then  $E$  admits a Hermitian-Einstein metric.*

It should be emphasized that the proof of Theorem 3 given here differs from existing proofs only in the construction of the destabilizing subsheaf and does not provide a simplification (in fact the given proof may be easily shortened.) However, the method should help elucidate a certain point of view and provide a useful model for the further study of multiplier ideal sheaves. We use the Yang-Mills heat flow and the associated flow of metrics, taking estimates from [D2], [DoKr] and [UY]. The heat flow method has also been used by Simpson [Si] and de Bartolomeis and Tian [DT] to prove generalizations of the Theorem of Donaldson-Uhlenbeck-Yau.

The paper is arranged as follows. In section 2 we prove the complex Frobenius theorem. In section 3 we prove Theorem 2 by making use of the

differential inclusion relation. In section 4 we give a proof of Theorem 3, using the Yang-Mills flow and Theorem 2.

### *Notation*

We will use the notation from [D2]. In particular, the Kähler form  $\omega$  on  $X$  can be written in normal coordinates at a point as

$$\omega = \frac{1}{2}i \sum_{j=1}^2 dz^j \wedge d\bar{z}^j,$$

and the operator  $\Lambda$  acts on  $(1, 1)$  forms at this point by

$$\Lambda\left(\sum_{j,k=1}^2 a_{j\bar{k}} dz^j \wedge d\bar{z}^k\right) = -2i \sum_{j=1}^2 a_{j\bar{j}}.$$

If  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  are form-valued sections of  $E$ , define

$$\langle \phi, \psi \rangle_H = \sum_{\alpha, \beta=1}^r H_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} \phi^\alpha \wedge \overline{\psi^\beta}.$$

Note that if  $H_0$  and  $H$  are metrics on  $E$ , and  $h = H_0^{-1}H$ , then the associated curvatures  $F_{H_0}$  and  $F_H$  differ by

$$F_H = F_{H_0} + \bar{\partial}(h^{-1}\partial_0 h).$$

For convenience, write  $\hat{F}$  for  $\Lambda F$ .

## **2. Complex Frobenius theorem**

In this section we give a proof of Theorem 1. We begin with the real analytic case. The statement is local so it will suffice to prove the following. Let  $\mathcal{F}_R$  be a subsheaf of  $\mathcal{O}_R^*$  over the polydisc  $U_\eta = \{z \in \mathbf{C}^n \mid |z_j| < \eta, j = 1, \dots, n\}$  for some  $\eta > 0$  satisfying the hypotheses (i) and (ii) of Theorem 1. Let  $f_1, \dots, f_q$  be sections of  $\mathcal{F}_R$  over  $U_\eta$  generating the stalks  $\mathcal{F}_{R,x}$  for all  $x$  in  $U_\eta$ . We will show that there exists some  $\eta'$  with  $0 < \eta' < \eta$  and sections  $g_1, \dots, g_q$  of  $\mathcal{F}_R$  over  $U_{\eta'}$  such that  $\bar{\partial}g_i = 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, q$ , with the  $g_i$  generating  $\mathcal{F}_{R,x}$  for all  $x$  in  $U_{\eta'}$ .

We will give a proof by induction on the number of variables  $z_1, \dots, z_p$  in which the generators are holomorphic.

*Step 1.* We begin by first showing that for small enough  $\eta'$  there exist sections  $g_1, \dots, g_q$  over  $U_{\eta'}$  satisfying  $\partial_{\bar{1}} g_i = 0$ , and such that  $g_1, \dots, g_q$  generate  $\mathcal{F}_{R,x}$  for all  $x$  in  $U_{\eta'}$ . By hypothesis, there exists a  $q \times q$  matrix of real analytic functions  $A_1$  on  $U_{\eta}$  satisfying

$$\begin{pmatrix} \partial_{\bar{1}} f_1 \\ \vdots \\ \partial_{\bar{1}} f_q \end{pmatrix} = A_1 \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ \vdots \\ f_q \end{pmatrix}.$$

We will show that for small enough  $\eta'$  there exists a real analytic map  $B : U_{\eta'} \rightarrow GL(q, \mathbf{C})$  satisfying

$$\partial_{\bar{1}} B + BA = 0. \quad (2.1)$$

To see that this will give the desired conclusion, set

$$\begin{pmatrix} g_1 \\ \vdots \\ g_q \end{pmatrix} = B \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ \vdots \\ f_q \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since  $B$  is invertible, the  $g_1, \dots, g_q$  generate  $\mathcal{F}_{R,x}$  for  $x$  in  $U_{\eta'}$  and differentiating the above gives

$$\begin{pmatrix} \partial_{\bar{1}} g_1 \\ \vdots \\ \partial_{\bar{1}} g_q \end{pmatrix} = (\partial_{\bar{1}} B) \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ \vdots \\ f_q \end{pmatrix} + BA_1 \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ \vdots \\ f_q \end{pmatrix} = 0.$$

We will pull back the  $f_i$  via the dilation map  $\delta_r : \mathbf{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^n$  given by  $(z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n) \mapsto (rz_1, z_2, \dots, z_n)$  for some  $r < 1$ . Notice that  $A_1$  scales by the factor  $r$ . We will solve the problem for these new  $f_i$  and then transform back.

Denote by  $D_\eta$  the open disc of radius  $\eta$  in  $\mathbf{C}$ . Multiply  $A_1$  by a smooth cut-off function  $\psi = \psi(|z_1|)$  with compact support in  $D_{\eta/r}$  and equal to 1 on  $D_{\eta/2r}$ . We can then regard  $A_1$  as a function on  $\mathbf{C}$  with parameters  $z_2, \bar{z}_2, \dots, z_n, \bar{z}_n$  varying analytically in a small polycylinder which may be shrunk if necessary. Replacing these variables by  $\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_{2n-2}$ , we can view  $A_1$  as having holomorphic parameters  $\zeta_i$ .  $A_1$  is smooth on  $\mathbf{C}$ , has compact support in  $D_{\eta/r}$  and is real analytic in  $D_{\eta/2r}$ . By choosing  $r$  small enough, we can suppose that, for a fixed  $0 < \epsilon < 1$ , the norm  $\|A_1\|_{C^\epsilon}$  is as small as we like.

Now set  $B = I + F$ , so that equation (2.1) becomes

$$\partial_{\overline{1}}F + (I + F)A_1 = 0. \quad (2.2)$$

We will use the following implicit function theorem to solve (2.2) for small real analytic  $F$ .

**Theorem 2.1** *Let  $Y_1, Y_2$  and  $Z$  be Banach spaces, and set  $Y = Y_1 \times Y_2$ . Let  $\Phi : Y \rightarrow Z$  be a smooth (holomorphic) map. Fix a point  $(y_1, y_2)$  in  $Y$ . If the partial derivative  $(D_2\Phi)(y_1, y_2) : Y_2 \rightarrow Z$  is surjective and admits a bounded right inverse  $P : Z \rightarrow Y_2$ , then there is a smooth (holomorphic) map  $f$  from a neighbourhood of  $y_1$  in  $Y_1$  to a neighbourhood of  $y_2$  in  $Y_2$  such that*

$$\Phi(\eta, f(\eta)) = \Phi(y_1, y_2).$$

*It follows that if  $\eta_z$  is a family of elements of  $Y_1$  in the above neighbourhood of  $y_1$ , varying smoothly (holomorphically) in a parameter  $z$ , then  $f(\eta_z)$  will also vary smoothly (holomorphically) in  $z$ .*

Apply the theorem with  $Y_1$  and  $Z$  the Banach spaces of  $q \times q$  matrix-valued functions on  $\mathbf{C}$  with the norm  $\| \cdot \|_{C^\epsilon}$  bounded, and  $Y_2$  the same space with norm  $\| \cdot \|_{C^{1+\epsilon}}$ . Take  $(y_1, y_2) = (0, 0)$  and

$$\Phi(A_1, F) = \partial_{\overline{1}}F + (I + F)A_1.$$

Then  $(D_2\Phi)(y_1, y_2) : Y_2 \rightarrow Z$  is given by

$$(D_2\Phi)(y_1, y_2)(\alpha) = \partial_{\overline{1}}\alpha,$$

which has bounded right inverse  $P : Z \rightarrow Y_2$  given by

$$P(\beta)(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\mathbf{C}} \frac{\beta(w)}{w - z} dw \wedge d\overline{w}.$$

Hence, if  $\|A_1\|_{C^\epsilon}$  is small enough then there exists  $F = F(A_1)$  with  $\|F\|_{C^{1+\epsilon}}$  small satisfying equation (2.2). Now since  $A_1$  depends holomorphically on the parameters  $\zeta_i$ , and since  $\Phi$  is holomorphic, the solution  $F$  will also be holomorphic in these parameters. By making the norm of  $A_1$  smaller if necessary, the solution  $B = I + F$  will be invertible. Moreover, since  $F$  is a solution of the elliptic equation

$$(\partial_{\overline{z}_1} + \partial_{\overline{\zeta}_1} + \dots + \partial_{\overline{\zeta}_{2n-2}})F + (I + F)A_1 = 0,$$

it follows that  $F$  must also be analytic in the variables  $z_1$  and  $\bar{z}_1$  by the theorem that sufficiently smooth solutions to elliptic equations with real analytic coefficients are themselves real analytic. Replacing the  $\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_{2n-2}$  with  $z_2, \dots, \bar{z}_n$ , we see that  $F$  is analytic in  $z_1, \bar{z}_1, \dots, z_n, \bar{z}_n$ . We have now completed the first step in the induction.

*Step 2.* Fix  $p$  with  $1 \leq p \leq n-1$ . Our inductive hypothesis is that for  $\eta'$  small enough, there exist sections  $f_1, \dots, f_q$  over  $U_{\eta'}$  satisfying  $\partial_{\bar{j}} f_i = 0$  for  $j = 1, \dots, p$  and generating  $\mathcal{F}_{R,x}$  for  $x$  in  $U_{\eta'}$ . We will show that, for some  $\eta'' > 0$ , there exist sections  $g_1, \dots, g_q$  over  $U_{\eta''}$  satisfying  $\partial_{\bar{j}} g_i = 0$  for  $j = 1, \dots, p+1$  and such that  $g_1, \dots, g_q$  generate  $\mathcal{F}_{R,x}$  for  $x$  in  $U_{\eta''}$ .

We know that there exist real analytic functions of  $q \times q$  matrices  $A_k$  on  $U_{\eta'}$  for  $k = 1, \dots, n$  satisfying

$$\begin{pmatrix} \partial_{\bar{k}} f_1 \\ \vdots \\ \partial_{\bar{k}} f_q \end{pmatrix} = A_k \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ \vdots \\ f_q \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.3)$$

The inductive hypothesis implies that  $A_k = 0$  for  $k = 1, \dots, p$ . We will show that, for  $\eta''$  small enough, there exists a real analytic function  $B : U_{\eta''} \rightarrow GL(q, \mathbf{C})$ , holomorphic in the variables  $z_1, \dots, z_p$ , satisfying

$$\partial_{\overline{p+1}} B + B A_{p+1} = 0.$$

Then, as before, the sections  $g_i$  given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} g_1 \\ \vdots \\ g_q \end{pmatrix} = B \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ \vdots \\ f_q \end{pmatrix}$$

will satisfy the required properties.

Before using the implicit function theorem, we must ensure that  $A_{p+1}$  is holomorphic in  $z_1, \dots, z_p$ . Notice that in equation (2.3) for  $k = p+1$ ,  $A_{p+1}$  is an analytic function of all of the variables  $z_1, \bar{z}_1, \dots, z_n, \bar{z}_n$  whereas the  $\partial_{\overline{p+1}} f_i$  and the  $f_i$  do not depend on  $\bar{z}_1, \dots, \bar{z}_p$ . Setting  $\bar{z}_1 = \dots = \bar{z}_p = 0$  we get an  $A_{p+1}$  which satisfies (2.3) and is holomorphic in  $z_1, \dots, z_p$ .

We can now finish the proof. Let  $B = I + F$ . We use the same method as before to solve

$$\partial_{\overline{p+1}} F + (I + F) A_{p+1} = 0$$



for  $F$  small, real analytic, and holomorphic in  $z_1, \dots, z_p$ , given that  $A_{p+1}$  is holomorphic in  $z_1, \dots, z_p$ . After dilating the  $z_{p+1}$  coordinate and multiplying by a cut-off function  $\psi = \psi(|z_{p+1}|)$ , we can take  $A_{p+1}$  to be a smooth function on  $\mathbf{C}$  in the  $z_{p+1}$  variable, with the  $z_i$  ( $i \neq p+1$ ) regarded as parameters which vary in some small polycylinder. As before we can assume that  $\|A_{p+1}\|_{C^\epsilon}$  is as small as we like. Apply the implicit function theorem to get a solution  $F$  with  $\|F\|_{C^{1+\epsilon}}$  small and which is analytic in  $z_{p+1}, \bar{z}_{p+1}, \dots, z_n, \bar{z}_n$  and holomorphic in the variables  $z_1, \dots, z_p$ . This completes the induction, and the theorem for the real analytic case follows.

For the smooth case, we cannot apply the argument used in Step 2 to get an  $A_{p+1}$  holomorphic in  $z_1, \dots, z_p$ . We will replace this with another induction argument. Define a proposition  $P_k$  for  $1 \leq k \leq p$  as follows.

**Proposition  $P_k$**  *Let  $\mathcal{G}^\infty \subset (\mathcal{C}^\infty)^d$  be a subsheaf over  $U_\delta$  for some  $\delta > 0$ , satisfying condition (i)' of the theorem. Suppose that  $\mathcal{G}^\infty$  is generated over  $U_\delta$  by sections  $r_1, \dots, r_l$ , which are holomorphic in  $z_1, \dots, z_p$ . Let  $a_1, \dots, a_l$  be smooth functions on  $U_\delta$  satisfying*

$$(\partial_{\bar{j}} a_1 \cdots \partial_{\bar{j}} a_l) \begin{pmatrix} r_1 \\ \vdots \\ r_l \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, k.$$

*Then there exists  $\delta'$  with  $0 < \delta' < \delta$  and  $(s_1 \cdots s_l)$  in the  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$  sheaf of relations  $\mathcal{R}(r_1, \dots, r_l)$  over  $U_{\delta'}$  with*

$$\partial_{\bar{j}}(a_1 - s_1) = \dots = \partial_{\bar{j}}(a_l - s_l) = 0, \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, k.$$

We will show that  $P_k$  holds for  $k = p$ . Then since

$$\partial_{\bar{j}} A_{p+1} \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ \vdots \\ f_q \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, p,$$

we can apply this result to each row of  $A_{p+1}$ . Hence, after making permissible changes to  $A_{p+1}$  and passing to a smaller open set, we can assume that  $A_{p+1}$  is holomorphic in  $z_1, \dots, z_p$ . We will need to use the main inductive hypothesis in the proof of this induction.

**Proof of  $\mathbf{P}_1$**  By assumption, the sheaf of relations  $\mathcal{R}(r_1, \dots, r_l)$  is locally finitely generated. Suppose the generators are

$$h_1 = (h_{11} h_{12} \cdots h_{1l}), \dots, h_m = (h_{m1} h_{m2} \cdots h_{ml}).$$

Since  $r_1, \dots, r_l$  are holomorphic in  $z_1$ , and  $\mathcal{R}(r_1, \dots, r_l)$  satisfies (i)', we can apply the *main* inductive hypothesis in the case  $p = 1$  to this subsheaf. Hence we can assume that, after choosing  $\delta'$  small enough, the generators  $h_1, \dots, h_m$  are holomorphic in the variable  $z_1$ . Now there exist smooth functions  $t_1, \dots, t_m$  on  $U_{\delta'}$  satisfying

$$(\partial_1 a_1 \cdots \partial_1 a_l) = t_1 h_1 + \dots + t_m h_m.$$

Let  $\hat{t}_1, \dots, \hat{t}_m$  be smooth functions satisfying  $\partial_1 \hat{t}_i = t_i$  (shrinking  $\delta'$  slightly.) Define

$$(s_1 \cdots s_l) = \hat{t}_1 h_1 + \dots + \hat{t}_m h_m.$$

Then we see that  $(s_1 \cdots s_l) \in \mathcal{R}(r_1, \dots, r_l)$  and

$$\partial_1(a_1 - s_1) = \dots = \partial_1(a_l - s_l) = 0,$$

completing the proof of  $P_1$ .

**Proof of  $\mathbf{P}_k \Rightarrow \mathbf{P}_{k+1}$**  We assume  $1 \leq k \leq p-1$ . Suppose that

$$(\partial_{\bar{j}} a_1 \cdots \partial_{\bar{j}} a_l) \begin{pmatrix} r_1 \\ \vdots \\ r_l \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, k+1.$$

By the inductive hypothesis, we can suppose, after making some allowed changes and taking  $\delta'$  small enough, that  $\partial_{\bar{j}} a_i = 0$  for  $j = 1, \dots, k$  and  $i = 1, \dots, l$ . As before let the generators of  $\mathcal{R}(r_1, \dots, r_l)$  be

$$h_1 = (h_{11} h_{12} \cdots h_{1l}), \dots, h_m = (h_{m1} h_{m2} \cdots h_{ml}).$$

Since  $r_1, \dots, r_l$  are holomorphic in  $z_1, \dots, z_k$ , by applying the main inductive hypothesis, we can assume that  $h_1, \dots, h_m$  are holomorphic in  $z_1, \dots, z_k$ . There exist  $t_1, \dots, t_m$  smooth functions with

$$(\partial_{\overline{k+1}} a_1 \cdots \partial_{\overline{k+1}} a_l) = t_1 h_1 + \dots + t_m h_m.$$

Notice that by applying  $\partial_{\bar{j}}$  we get that

$$(\partial_{\bar{j}} t_1 \cdots \partial_{\bar{j}} t_m) \begin{pmatrix} h_1 \\ \vdots \\ h_m \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, k.$$

We can apply the *current* inductive hypothesis to see that, after shrinking  $\delta'$ , there exists  $(s'_1 \cdots s'_m)$  in  $\mathcal{R}(h_1, \dots, h_m)$  such that

$$\partial_{\bar{j}}(t_1 - s'_1) = \dots = \partial_{\bar{j}}(t_m - s'_m) = 0, \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, k.$$

By replacing the  $t_i$  by  $t_i - s'_i$ , we can then assume that  $\partial_{\bar{j}} t_i = 0$  for  $j = 1, \dots, k$ . Let  $\hat{t}_i$  solve  $\partial_{\bar{k+1}} \hat{t}_i = t_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, m$  where the  $\hat{t}_i$  are smooth and holomorphic in  $z_1, \dots, z_k$ . Then, as before, set

$$(s_1 \cdots s_l) = \hat{t}_1 h_1 + \dots + \hat{t}_m h_m.$$

Then  $(s_1 \cdots s_l) \in \mathcal{R}(r_1, \dots, r_l)$  and

$$\partial_{\bar{j}}(a_1 - s_1) = \dots = \partial_{\bar{j}}(a_l - s_l) = 0, \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, k+1.$$

This proves  $P_{k+1}$ .

It is now straightforward to complete the proof in the smooth case. To see that  $\mathcal{F} = \ker \bar{\partial}|_{\mathcal{F}^\infty}$  is coherent and to establish

$$\mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{C}^\infty = \mathcal{F}^\infty,$$

one can use the result of Malgrange [Ma] on the flatness of  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$  over  $\mathcal{O}$ , or apply Corollary 6.3.6 of [Ho].

### 3. The multiplier ideal sheaf

In this section, we give a proof of Theorem 2. Let  $H_k$  be a sequence of metrics as given in the hypothesis of the theorem, defining the multiplier ideal sheaf  $\mathcal{F}_R$  over  $\tilde{X}$ . We now prove the differential inclusion relation.

**Proposition 3.1**  $\bar{\partial}\mathcal{F}_R \subseteq \mathcal{F}_R \otimes T^{0,1}$ .

**Proof** Let  $x$  be in  $\tilde{X}$ , and let  $U$  be an open set in  $\tilde{X}$  containing  $x$ . Choose  $V$  compact and  $W$  open such that  $x \in W \subset V \subset U$  and let  $\psi$  be a smooth cut-off function supported in  $V$  and equal to 1 in  $W$ . Suppose that  $s$  satisfies

$$\int_U |s|_{H_k}^2 \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } k \rightarrow \infty.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_W |\bar{\partial}s|_{H_k}^2 &= -i \int_W \Lambda \langle \bar{\partial}s, \bar{\partial}s \rangle_{H_k} \\ &\leq -i \int_X \Lambda \langle \psi h_k \bar{\partial}s, \bar{\partial}s \rangle_{H_0} \\ &= -i \int_X \Lambda \langle \psi (\partial_0 h_k) \bar{\partial}s, s \rangle_{H_0} - i \int_X \Lambda \langle \psi h_k \partial_0 \bar{\partial}s, s \rangle_{H_0} \\ &\quad - i \int_X \Lambda \langle (\partial\psi) h_k \bar{\partial}s, s \rangle_{H_0} \\ &= -i \int_X \Lambda \langle \psi (h_k)^{-\frac{1}{2}} (\partial_0 h_k) \bar{\partial}s, (h_k)^{\frac{1}{2}} s \rangle_{H_0} \\ &\quad - i \int_X \Lambda \langle \psi (h_k)^{\frac{1}{2}} \partial_0 \bar{\partial}s, (h_k)^{\frac{1}{2}} s \rangle_{H_0} \\ &\quad - i \int_X \Lambda \langle (\partial\psi) (h_k)^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{\partial}s, (h_k)^{\frac{1}{2}} s \rangle_{H_0} \\ &\leq C \left( \int_V |(h_k)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \partial_0 h_k|_{H_0}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_U |s|_{H_k}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad + \left( \int_V |\partial_0 \bar{\partial}s|_{H_k}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_U |s|_{H_k}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad + C \left( \int_V |\bar{\partial}s|_{H_k}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_U |s|_{H_k}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

where  $C$  denotes a constant that does not depend on  $k$ . The last two terms in the last line clearly tend to zero as  $k$  tends to zero. To see that the first term in the last line also tends to zero, observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_X |(h_k)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \partial_0 h_k|_{H_0}^2 &= i \int_X \Lambda \langle (h_k)^{-1} \partial_0 h_k, \partial_0 h_k \rangle_{H_0} \\ &= i \int_X \Lambda \langle \bar{\partial}((h_k)^{-1} \partial_0 h_k), h_k \rangle_{H_0} \\ &= \int_X \langle (i\hat{F}_{H_k} - i\hat{F}_{H_0}), h_k \rangle_{H_0} \\ &\leq C \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the fact that the contracted curvature  $i\hat{F}_{H_k}$  is bounded from above. This completes the proof.

In order to apply Theorem 1 we must see that  $\mathcal{F}_R$  is locally finitely generated. This follows from the next lemma, which gives an alternative description of the multiplier ideal sheaf.

**Lemma 3.2** *Define a sheaf  $\mathcal{S}_R$  on  $\tilde{X}$  by*

$$\mathcal{S}_R(U) = \{s \in \mathcal{E}_R(U) \mid h_\infty s = 0\}.$$

*Then  $\mathcal{F}_R = \mathcal{S}_R$ .*

**Proof** Let  $x$  be in  $\tilde{X}$ , and let  $x \in U \subset \tilde{X}$ . Choose  $V$  compact and  $W$  open such that  $x \in W \subset V \subset U$ . If  $s$  is in  $\mathcal{S}_R(U)$  then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_W |s|_{H_k}^2 &= \int_W \langle (h_k - h_\infty)s, s \rangle_{H_0} \\ &\leq \|h_k - h_\infty\|_{C^0(V)} \int_V |s|_{H_0}^2 \\ &\rightarrow 0, \end{aligned}$$

as  $k$  tends to infinity. This proves  $\mathcal{S}_R \subset \mathcal{F}_R$ . On the other hand, suppose that

$$\int_U |s|_{H_k}^2 \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } k \rightarrow \infty.$$

Then for any smooth section  $t$  of  $E$  over  $U$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_V \langle h_\infty s, t \rangle_{H_0} &= \int_V \langle (h_\infty - h'_k)s, t \rangle_{H_0} + \int_V \langle s, t \rangle_{H_k} \\ &\leq \|h_\infty - h'_k\|_{C^0(V)} \left( \int_V |s|_{H_0}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_V |t|_{H_0}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \left( \int_U |s|_{H_k}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_V |t|_{H_k}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

as  $k$  tends to infinity. Hence  $h_\infty s = 0$  on  $W$  and the lemma is proved.

Since  $h_\infty$  is real analytic,  $\mathcal{F}_R$  is locally the kernel of a homomorphism between coherent sheaves of  $\mathcal{O}_R$  modules, and so  $\mathcal{F}_R$  is locally finitely generated. Applying Theorem 1 completes the proof.

#### 4. Hermitian Einstein metrics on stable bundles

For this section, we will assume the hypotheses of Theorem 3. The background material for this section can be found in [D2] and [DoKr] (see also [S2] for a good exposition.)

Let  $H_0$  be a *real analytic* Hermitian metric on the fibres of  $E$ . We can obtain such a metric in the following way. Tensor  $E$  with the hyperplane line bundle  $L$  raised to a high power  $K$  so that the holomorphic sections of  $E \otimes L^K$  embed  $X$  into a Grassmannian  $G(r, M)$  of  $r$ -planes in  $\mathbf{C}^M$ , where  $M$  is the dimension of  $H^0(X, E \otimes L^K)$ . Then, via this embedding, pull back the canonical metric on the universal bundle  $U(r)$  over the Grassmannian to get a real analytic metric on  $E \otimes L^K$ . Then use the canonical real analytic metric on  $L$  to get a real analytic metric  $H_0$  on  $E$ .

Let  $\lambda$  be the average of  $(\text{Tr } \hat{F}_0)/r$ . We consider the flow of endomorphisms  $h_t$  with  $h_0 = Id_E$  given by the flow

$$\frac{\partial h_t}{\partial t} = -2ih_t(\hat{F}_t - \lambda I)$$

introduced by Donaldson [D2] ( $F_t$  is the curvature of the metric  $H_t = H_0 h_t$ .) We call this the Donaldson heat flow. It is shown in [D2] that solutions exist for all time. The flow is, roughly speaking, the same as the Yang-Mills flow up to gauge. In particular, if  $A_0$  is the unitary connection associated to  $H_0$  and the holomorphic structure on  $E$ , and if  $g_t$  in the complexified gauge group  $\mathcal{G}^C$  satisfies  $g_t^* g_t = h_t$  then  $A_t = g_t(A_0)$  satisfies the gauge equivalent Yang-Mills flow

$$\frac{\partial A_t}{\partial t} = -d_{A_t}^* F_{A_t} + d_{A_t}(\alpha(t))$$

for  $\alpha(t) \in \Omega^0(\mathfrak{g}_E)$ .

Make a (real analytic) conformal change to  $H_0$  so that  $\det h_t = 1$  along the flow. Also, normalize the metric on  $X$  so that  $\text{Vol}(X) = 2\pi$ .

Suppose first that  $\sup_X |h_t|_{H_0}$  is bounded uniformly in  $t$ . By the argument in [D2], we have a  $C^1$  bound and  $L_2^p$  bounds for all  $p$  for  $h_t$ . Hence, for a sequence of times  $t_k \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $H_k = H_{t_k}$  converges strongly in  $L_1^p$  to a Hermitian metric  $H_\infty$ , which is itself in  $L_2^p$ . Then

$$\hat{F}_{H_k} - \lambda I \rightharpoonup \hat{F}_{H_\infty} - \lambda I$$

weakly in  $L^p$ . Now, Donaldson's functional (see [D2]) is bounded below when  $E$  is stable (in fact, semi-stable) and calculating the functional along the flow gives

$$\hat{F}_{H_k} - \lambda I \rightarrow 0$$

strongly in  $L^2$ . Hence we get that  $\hat{F}_\infty = \lambda I$  and by elliptic estimates,  $H_\infty$  is a smooth (and in fact real analytic) Hermitian-Einstein metric.

Suppose then that the  $C^0$  norm of  $h_t$  is unbounded along the flow. We will show that this leads to a contradiction. Take a sequence  $h_{t_k}$  with the  $C^0$  norm tending to infinity as  $k$  tends to infinity. Then define normalized endomorphisms  $h'_k$  by

$$h'_k = \frac{h_{t_k}}{\sup_X |h_{t_k}|_{H_0}},$$

and let  $H'_k = H_0 h'_k$ . Then we have the following theorem, the proof of which is, for the most part, contained in [D2] and [DoKr].

**Theorem 4.1** *There exists a finite set of points  $\{x_1, \dots, x_p\} \subset X$  such that, after passing to a subsequence,  $h'_k$  converges uniformly on compact sets in  $X \setminus \{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$  to a real analytic endomorphism  $h_\infty$ .*

**Proof** Define  $A_k = h_k^{1/2}(A_0)$ . Then we have

- (i)  $F_{A_k}$  are bounded in  $L^2$ ;
- (ii)  $\hat{F}_{A_k}$  are uniformly bounded;
- (iii)  $\nabla_{A_k} \hat{F}_{A_k} \rightarrow 0$  in  $L^2$ .

(i) follows from the fact that the Yang-Mills flow is the gradient flow for the Yang-Mills functional, (ii) follows from a maximum principle argument (see [D2]) and a proof of (iii) is given in [DoKr] (Proposition 6.2.14).

It is shown in [DoKr] that there exists a set of points  $\{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$  in  $X$  and a cover of  $X \setminus \{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$  by a system of balls such that, after passing to a subsequence, each connection  $A_k$  has curvature with  $L^2$  norm less than a small  $\epsilon > 0$ . If this  $\epsilon$  is small enough, then by a theorem of Uhlenbeck's [Uh], we can put the connections in Coulomb gauge over these balls. By elliptic estimates and a standard patching argument (see [DoKr] for details), there exist gauge transformations  $v_k$  over the punctured manifold such that  $v_k h_k^{1/2}(A_0)$  are bounded in  $L^2_2$ . Put  $g_k = v_k h_k^{1/2}$ , and let  $\tilde{A}_k = g_k(A_0)$ . Then if  $\tilde{A}_k^{1,0}$  and  $\tilde{A}_k^{0,1}$  are the  $(1,0)$  and  $(0,1)$  components of  $\tilde{A}_k$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{A}_k^{1,0} &= A_0^{1,0} + g_k^{-1}(\partial_{A_0} g_k) \\ \tilde{A}_k^{0,1} &= A_0^{0,1} + (\bar{\partial} g_k) g_k^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $g_k^* g_k = h'_k$  we have that the  $g_k$  are bounded uniformly, and from the above, they are bounded in  $L^2_3$ . Hence, after passing to a subsequence, the  $g_k$

converge uniformly on compact subsets to  $g_\infty$ , from which it follows that  $h'_k$  converges uniformly on compact subsets to  $h_\infty$ . It remains to see that  $h_\infty$  is real analytic. Now  $\tilde{A}_k$  converges over the punctured manifold to  $A_\infty$ , weakly in  $L^2_2$ , and by condition (iii) we must have

$$\nabla_{A_\infty} \hat{F}_{A_\infty} = 0,$$

which is elliptic in a Coulomb gauge. The elliptic estimates give that  $A_\infty$  is smooth. Since the coefficients of the equation are real analytic (using the fact that  $\omega$  is real analytic), it follows that  $A_\infty$  is real analytic. Now

$$\begin{aligned} A_\infty^{1,0} &= A_0^{1,0} + g_\infty^{-1}(\partial_{A_0} g_\infty) \\ A_\infty^{0,1} &= A_0^{0,1} + (\bar{\partial} g_\infty) g_\infty^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

and  $A_0$  is itself real analytic. It follows that  $g_\infty$  is real analytic, and therefore  $h_\infty$  is also.

Now let  $\mathcal{F}_R$  be the multiplier ideal sheaf associated to the sequence of metrics  $\{H'_k\}$  over  $\tilde{X} = X \setminus \{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$ . Then, since  $\hat{F}$  is bounded along the flow, and by the above, we can apply Theorem 2 to get a coherent sheaf  $\mathcal{F} \subset \mathcal{E}$  over  $\tilde{X}$ . In fact, this defines a coherent subsheaf of  $E$  over the whole of  $X$ . To see this, recall that a coherent subsheaf may be defined in the following way (see [UY], section 7, for example.) Let  $U_i$  be a cover of  $X$  so that  $E|_{U_i}$  is trivial and let  $t_{ij}$  be the transition functions of  $E$  defined on the intersections  $U_i \cap U_j$ . Then a coherent subsheaf of  $E$  of rank  $k$  can be defined to be a set  $\{f_i\}$  of *rational maps* from  $U_i$  to the Grassmannian  $G(k, r)$  with transformation maps  $t_{ij}$  on the overlaps. Thus, in particular, we can extend over a finite number of points in  $X$ .

We need the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.2** *There exists a positive constant  $c$ , independent of  $k$ , such that*

$$\|\mathrm{Tr} h_k\|_{L^1(X)} \geq c \sup_X \mathrm{Tr} h_k.$$

**Proof** We use the inequality

$$\triangle \log \mathrm{Tr} h_k \geq -\frac{1}{2}(|\hat{F}_{H_0}| + |\hat{F}_{H_k}|)$$



from [S2], and the fact that  $\hat{F}$  is uniformly bounded along the flow. We know that the Green's function  $G = G(x, y)$  is bounded below by some constant  $-A$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \log \operatorname{Tr} h_k(x) &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_X \log \operatorname{Tr} h_k(y) dV(y) \\ &\quad + \int_X (-\Delta \log \operatorname{Tr} h_k)(y) (G(x, y) + A) dV(y) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_X \log \operatorname{Tr} h_k(y) dV(y) + C \\ &\leq \log \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_X \operatorname{Tr} h_k(y) dV(y) \right) + C, \end{aligned}$$

where  $C$  is independent of  $k$ . This proves the lemma.

Since  $\det h_k = 1$  along the flow, the above shows that at least one eigenvalue of  $h_k$  must tend to infinity on a non-empty open set of  $X$ . Hence

$$0 < \operatorname{rank} \mathcal{F} < \operatorname{rank} \mathcal{E}.$$

We will now show that  $\mathcal{F}$  is destabilizing, which will give the contradiction. Note that  $\mathcal{F}$  is a subbundle outside a subvariety  $Z$  of codimension 1. We will calculate the second fundamental form, following the method of [UY]. First observe that given a semi-positive self-adjoint (with respect to  $H_0$ ) endomorphism  $h$ , one can define an endomorphism  $h^\sigma$  by diagonalizing  $h$  at a point in a unitary frame with respect to  $H_0$  and then raising each matrix entry to the power  $\sigma$ . Then note that outside  $Z \subset X$ , the pointwise limit

$$\pi = \lim_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} (I - h_\infty^\sigma)$$

is the orthogonal projection of  $E$  onto the subbundle defined by  $\mathcal{F}$ . Define the *slopes*  $\mu(\mathcal{F})$  and  $\mu(\mathcal{E})$  by

$$\mu(\mathcal{E}) = \frac{i}{2\pi} \frac{\int_X \operatorname{Tr} (\hat{F}_0)}{\operatorname{rank}(\mathcal{E})} \quad \text{and} \quad \mu(\mathcal{F}) = \frac{i}{2\pi} \frac{\int_X \operatorname{Tr} (\hat{F}_0(\mathcal{F}))}{\operatorname{rank}(\mathcal{F})}.$$

Note that  $\mu(\mathcal{E}) = i\lambda$ . The following lemma completes the proof of Theorem 3.

**Lemma 4.3**

$$\mu(\mathcal{F}) \geq \mu(\mathcal{E}).$$

**Proof** First observe that for  $0 < \sigma \leq 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_X |dh'_k{}^\sigma|_{H_0}^2 &= 2 \int_X |\partial_0 h'_k{}^\sigma|_{H_0}^2 \\
&\leq \int_X |(h'_k)^{-\sigma/2} (\partial_0 h'_k{}^\sigma)|_{H_0}^2 \\
&\leq \int_X \langle h_k^{-1} (\partial_0 h_k), \partial_0 h'_k{}^\sigma \rangle_{H_0} \\
&= \int_X i \langle (\hat{F}_k - \hat{F}_0), h'_k{}^\sigma \rangle_{H_0} \\
&\leq C
\end{aligned}$$

where in the third line, we have used the pointwise inequality

$$|h^{-\sigma/2} (\partial_0 h^\sigma)|_{H_0}^2 \leq \langle h^{-1} (\partial_0 h), \partial_0 h^\sigma \rangle_{H_0} \quad (4.1)$$

for  $0 < \sigma \leq 1$  and  $h$  a positive self-adjoint endomorphism (see [UY], Lemma 4.1). Hence

$$I - h'_k{}^\sigma \rightharpoonup \tilde{\pi}$$

weakly in  $L_1^2$ , for some  $\tilde{\pi}$  in  $L_1^2$ , taking the limit as  $k$  tends to infinity and then as  $\sigma$  tends to zero. Notice that  $\pi$  and  $\tilde{\pi}$  must agree on  $X \setminus Z$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
i \int_X \text{Tr } \hat{F}_0(\mathcal{F}) &= i \int_X \text{Tr } (\hat{F}_0 \pi) - \int_X |\partial_0 \pi|_{H_0}^2 \\
&= i \int_X \text{Tr } ((\hat{F}_0 - \lambda I) \pi) + \int_X \text{Tr } (\mu(\mathcal{E}) \pi) - \int_X |\partial_0 \pi|_{H_0}^2 \\
&= i \int_X \text{Tr } ((\hat{F}_0 - \lambda I) \pi) - \int_X |\partial_0 \pi|_{H_0}^2 + \text{Vol}(X) \text{rank}(\mathcal{F}) \mu(\mathcal{E}).
\end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\mu(\mathcal{F}) \geq \mu(\mathcal{E})$  if and only if

$$i \int_X \text{Tr } ((\hat{F}_0 - \lambda I) \pi) \geq \int_X |\partial_0 \pi|_{H_0}^2.$$

First, observe that using the inequality (4.1),

$$\begin{aligned}
i \int_X \text{Tr } ((\hat{F}_0 - \lambda I) h'_k{}^\sigma) &= i \int_X \text{Tr } ((\hat{F}_k - \lambda I) h'_k{}^\sigma) - \int_X \langle \bar{\partial}(h_k^{-1} (\partial_0 h_k)), h'_k{}^\sigma \rangle_{H_0} \\
&\leq i \int_X \text{Tr } ((\hat{F}_k - \lambda I) h'_k{}^\sigma) - \int_X |\partial_0 h'_k{}^\sigma|_{H_0}^2.
\end{aligned}$$

Then by lower semicontinuity,

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_X |\partial_0 \pi|_{H_0}^2 &\leq \liminf_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_X |\partial_0(I - h'_k{}^\sigma)|_{H_0}^2 \\
&= \liminf_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_X |\partial_0 h'_k{}^\sigma|_{H_0}^2 \\
&\leq \liminf_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} (-i \int_X \text{Tr}((\hat{F}_0 - \lambda I)h'_k{}^\sigma) + i \int_X \text{Tr}((\hat{F}_k - \lambda I)h'_k{}^\sigma)) \\
&= i \int_X \text{Tr}((\hat{F}_0 - \lambda I)\pi) + \liminf_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} i \int_X \text{Tr}((\hat{F}_k - \lambda I)h'_k{}^\sigma),
\end{aligned}$$

using the fact that  $\int_X \text{Tr}(\hat{F}_0 - \lambda I) = 0$  and  $I - h'_k{}^\sigma \rightharpoonup \tilde{\pi}$  weakly in  $L_1^2$ . Now since the Donaldson functional is bounded below, we know that  $\int_X |\hat{F}_k - \lambda I|_{H_k}^2$  tends to zero as  $k$  tends to infinity. This gives the desired inequality and completes the proof.

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